

## CLAIMS

1. A multi-operator ticketing system which comprises first means (103) specific to a first operator for acquiring the content of a ticket (104) issued by this operator and for authorising a service according to the information acquired, characterised in that it also comprises second means (106), referred to as "consulate" means, receiving the information when they come from a ticket (105) issued by another operator and for transmitting to the first means a simple authorisation to render the said service according to the information obtained and processed in a manner specific to the consulate.

2. A system according to Claim 1, characterised in that the service authorisation is dependent on the prior performance of a transaction.

3. A system according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the methods of processing information by the first means (103) and the consulate (106) are concealed with respect to each other.

4. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the consulate (106) is physically included in the first means (103).

5. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the consulate (106) is physically external to the first means (103).

6. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the system comprises a central unit (101) and a set of remote stations (103) intended

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to acquire the content of the tickets and to perform the transactions and connected to the central unit by first transmission circuits (102).

5        7. A system according to Claim 6, characterised in that each remote station (103) comprises a consulate (106).

10       8. A system according to either one of Claims 6 and 7, characterised in that the central unit (101) comprises second transmission circuits (107) for transmitting to the central unit of the other operator (201) the data corresponding to the transactions effected on behalf of this other operator.

15       9. A system according to any one of Claims 6 to 8, characterised in that the central unit comprises third transmission circuits (108) for transmitting from the central unit of the other operator (201) to the consulate (106) the information concerning the methods of processing, by the consulate, of the information carried by the ticket (105).

20       10. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied to a common transportation system and in that the remote stations (103) are validators for access to the transportation vehicles, the information carried by the tickets being read by the validators.

25       11. A system according to Claim 10, characterised in that the tickets are information carriers such as tickets with a magnetic strip, plastic or cardboard, or contact or contactless smart cards.

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12. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied to a mobile telephony system and in that the remote stations (103) are base stations in mobile telephony networks, the information carried by the tickets being read by mobile telephones and transmitted to the base stations.

13. A system according to Claim 12, characterised in that the tickets are in portable telephone form with associated mobile telephony smart card (GSM or UMTS standards).

14. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied to a banking system and in that the remote stations (103) are dispensing terminals, the information carried by the tickets being read by the dispensing terminals.

15. A system according to Claim 14, characterised in that the tickets are in the form of credit cards, with a chip or magnetic tape.

16. A system according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is applied to systems with different purposes.

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